

Message Text

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10

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 OMB-01 RSR-01 /127 W

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R 160815 Z JUN 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3220

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1775

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG LY

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN/ LIBYAN RELATIONS APPEAR UNIMPROVED.

1. OF POSSIBLE IMPORTANCE IN ESTIMATING PRESENT STATE OF EGYPTIAN/ LIBYAN RELATIONS IS FACT THAT EGYPTIAN PRESS SEEMS INTENT ON IGNORING SADAT' S VISIT TO TRIPOLI JUNE 10-12 AFTER THE EVENT. ON EVE OF VISIT, PRESS GAVE USUAL BUILDUP TO SADA/ QADHAFI MEETINGS, WITH STANDARD " REVELATIONS" FROM " RELIABLE SOURCES " THAT TWO LEADERS WOULD TALK ABOUT MERGER MATTERS. WHEELUS ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS WERE GIVEN MAJOR COVERAGE, AND SPEECHES OF SADAT AND QADHAFI WERE SUMMARIZED IN FRONT- PAGE PRESS ARTICLES. ON JUNE 13, TUNE BEGAN TO CHANGE. AHARAM NOTED THAT SADAT WAS IN PROCESS OF " IMPORTANT ARAB CONSULTATION" (OBLIQUELY REFERRING TO MEETINGS WITH AL- ASAD) AND ONLY PARENTHETICALLY CARRIED
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ITEM ABOUT MEETING SADAT HELD WITH QADHAAFI ON EARLY AFTER-
NOON OF JUNE 12.

2. SINCE THEN, QAHDABI AND LIBYA HAVE VIRTUALLY DROPPED
FROM THE NEWS. EGYPTIAN PRESS ACCOUNTS OF SADAT/ AL- ASAD
TALKS MENTIONED " ARAB ISSUES" WITHIN CONTEXT OF EGYPT,
SYRIA AND LEBANON, BUT DID NOT MENTION LIBYA AT ALL.
PRESS EDITORIALS, NORMALLY A SIGNIFICANT GUIDE TO
EGYPTIAN ATTENTIONS, HAVE SPORADICALLY REFERRED TO NATIONALI-
ZATION OF BUNKER- HUNT, BUT GENERALLY WITHIN CONTEXT
OF " ARAB ACTION" AND NOT IN PRAISE OF QADHAFI. FINALLY,
CAIRO PRESS HAS BEEN CARRYING ON FRONT PAGES REPORTS OF
WITHDRAWAL OF LEBANESE AMBASSADOR TO TRIPOLI AS RESULT OF
QADHAF' S REMARKS ABOUT POSITION OF MOSLEMS IN LEBANON.

3. IMPRESSION IS, THEREFORE, THAT IN ABSENCE OF ANYTHING
POSITIVE THEY CAN SAY ABOUT QADHAFI OR ABOUT RESULTS OF HIS
MEETING WITH SADAT, EGYPTIANS ARE TRYING TO SAY NOTHING
AT ALL.

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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